

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04595

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: NATO FR MILI
SUBJECT: FRENCH COOPERATION IN THE NATO LONG-TERM
PROGRAM

REF: PARIS 16152, DTG 011713Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTS VIEWS EXPRESSED BY GENERALS MARTRE AND CAUCHIE, AND MR. MONNIER, ASSISTANT TO THE LATTER, ON POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SOME ELEMENTS OF NATO LONG-TERM PROGRAM INITIATIVES. REFTEL ALSO SUGGESTS THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THOSE THREE, WASHINGTON MIGHT CONSIDER MAKING US APPROVAL OF ASSIGNING CHAIRMANSHIP OF TASK FORCES ON AIR DEFENSE, C3, AND EW TO SACEUR CONDITIONAL UPON ACCEPTANCE OF A COMPLEX PROVISION INVOLVING AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, CNAD, EWG, AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

2. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST THIS SUGGESTION. THE FIRST MAJOR MULTILATERAL LANDMARK IN PROMOTION OF THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM OCCURS AT THE JUNE 3 DPC, AND IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT THE OVERRIDING US OBJECTIVE AT THAT
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MEETING SHOULD BE TO GET PAST IT WITH MINIMAL DISCUSSION OF CHANGES TO SYG LUNS' PO SO AS TO GET WORK STARTED. FOR THE US TO INTRODUCE A FRENCH FORMULA AT THE MEETING WOULD, WE BELIEVE, OPEN THE FLOODGATES TO A VARIETY OF COMPLICATING AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE NATIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS, SUBTRACTIONS, OR OTHER MAJOR CHANGES TO THE PO.

3. WE UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE HOPE OF ENGAGING THE FRENCH IN THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM EFFORT, BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT (A) SYG LUNS CAN AND WILL COVER THAT SUBJECT GENERALLY IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (THE AMBASSADOR IS PLANNING ON URGING HIM PRIVATELY TO DO SO PRIOR TO THE DPC JUNE 3); (B) AN APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION CAN BE WORKED OUT LATER, IF SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT DETRACT FROM THE FORCE IMPROVEMENTS PURPOSE OF THE ENTIRE EXERCISE AS COVERED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SECDEF; AND (C) MARTRE, CAUCHIE, AND MONNIER AT THIS TIME APPARENTLY SPEAK ONLY FOR THEMSELVES WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.BENNETT

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